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— Frederick Warne & Co. have just issued a "dollar" Shakespeare, printed from readable type on paper of good quality, and neatly bound in cloth.

— D. Lothrop Company have just ready "Around the World Stories," by Olive Risley Seward, an account of curious things met with in her travels; "Dear Old Story-Tellers," by Oscar Fay Adams, brief biographies of popular story-writers from Æsop to Laboulaye; and "Our Asiatic Cousins," by Mrs. A. H. Leonowens, a description of life in the remotest parts of the East.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

## A Possible Elephant.

WHILE examining the bluffs along the Missouri, near Vermillion, Dak., recently, I came upon the remains of what I take to be *Elephas americanus*. The bones found all belong to the upper and back portions of the skull, and include most of the upper jaw, containing about a third of the right tooth and all of the left, portions of the tusk tubes, enough of the occipital to give both articulating surfaces connecting the skull with the spinal column, and many fragments of the upper portion of the skull. The perfect tooth weighs about twelve pounds, as near as can be determined without detaching it from the jaw.

The bones are nearly all in a fine state of preservation. Only a small portion of one tusk was found, and that much decomposed. Judging from the tubes, the tusks could not have been less than six inches in diameter.

The bones lay in a bed of sand and fine gravel (probably Champlain) about twenty feet thick. This sand rests directly upon the Fort Benton clays, and is overlaid by one hundred feet of loess. The *Elephas* bones were near the bottom of the sand, and about one hundred feet above the river. They were exposed by a landslide which carried down with it all of the skeleton except the portion of the skull mentioned.

G. E. CULVER.

Vermillion, Dak., July 29.

## Are Beech-Trees ever struck by Lightning?

ON p. 50 of *Science* for July 19, I notice an article on lightning striking beech-trees. The following instance has come to my notice. In the summer of 1887 Marcus Grover was at a saw-mill in Rome, Ashta. County, O. Noticing an approaching storm, he, as he supposed, thoughtfully hitched his two-horse team to a small green beech-tree which stood in the mill-yard. During the storm came a sharp crash of thunder and lightning.

Mr. Grover looked for his team, only to find both horses dead. There were some small holes in the ground, and the hair was scorched a little, but no trace of lightning could be found on the tree.

E. E. BOGUE.

Orwell, Ashta. Co., O., Aug. 2.

## Mosquitoes and Science.

REFERRING to the letter of Dr. R. H. Lamborn, on p. 85 of *Science* for Aug. 2, there would seem to be a choice between two evils. I cannot now lay my hand on the article referred to, but recall the fact that the larvæ of mosquitoes were found to be potent agents in diminishing malarial exhalations from stagnant water. The question arises whether it would be better to endure malaria or mosquitoes.

EDWARD H. WILLIAMS, jun.

Bethlehem, Penn., Aug. 5.

## Queries.

46. FERN'S NAME. — I send you a small fern which grows in this section of the country, and is said to be a rare specimen. Will you please publish in your *Science* the name of this fern?

WALTER W. FRANCIS.

Idaho Springs, Col., July 23.

## Answers.

46. FERN'S NAME. — The name of the fern submitted for determination is *Notholaena Fendleri*. At Idaho Springs, Col., it has probably been collected near its northern limit, the species being much more abundant farther south.

E. J. N.

## Exchanges.

[Exchanges are inserted for subscribers free of charge. Address N. D. C. Hodges, 47 Lafayette Place, New York.]

100 botanical specimens and analyses for exchange. Send list of those desired and those which can be furnished, and receive a similar list in return. Also cabinet specimens and curiosities for the same. Scientific correspondence solicited. — E. E. BOGUE, Orwell, Ashta. County, O.

Lead, zinc, mundic, and calcite. — Lulu Hay, secretary Chapter 350, Carthage, Mo.

I will sell to chapters or individual members of the Agassiz Association, 25 fine specimens of fossil plants from the Dakota group (cretaceous), correctly named, for \$2.50. Send post-office order to Charles H. Sternberg (author "Young Fossil-Hunters"), 1033 Kentucky Street, Lawrence, Kan.

One mounted single achromatic photographic lens for making 4 × 5 pictures, in excellent condition; also one "new model" double dry-plate holder (4 × 5"), for fine geological or mineralogical specimens, properly classified. — Charles B. Frick, 1019 West Lehigh Avenue, Philadelphia, Penn.

Drawings from nature — animals, birds, insects, and plants — to exchange for insects for cabinet; or I will send them in sets of ten each for ten cents in stamps. My drawings in botany are in detail, showing plant, leaves, flowers, seed, stamens, pistils, etc. — Alda M. Sharp, Gladbrook, Io.

The undersigned wishes to make arrangements for the exchange of *Lepidoptera* of eastern Pennsylvania for those from other localities. All my specimens are named and in good condition. — Charles S. Westcott, 613 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, Penn.

California onyx, for minerals and coins not in my collection. — W. C. Thompson, 612 East 141st Street, New York, N.Y.

Any one who has a botanical box in good condition will please write. I will offer about 30 specimens in exchange. — C. B. Haskell, Box 826, Kennebunk, Me.

A few first-class mounted birds, for first-class birds' eggs of any kind in sets. — J. P. Babbitt, secretary Chapter 755, 10 Hodges Avenue, Taunton, Mass.

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MESSRS. JAMES W. QUEEN & CO. call the attention of electricians to the following indorsement of their No. 1 Standard laboratory resistance box and bridge. The set referred to in a letter from Professor B. F. Thomas, an extract from which we give below, was designed by Professor William A. Anthony, and was constructed under his personal supervision by the Mather Electric Company. By a special arrangement, all these sets are now made by Messrs. Queen & Co. Professor Anthony adjusts all of the coils, and furnishes a certificate with each set.

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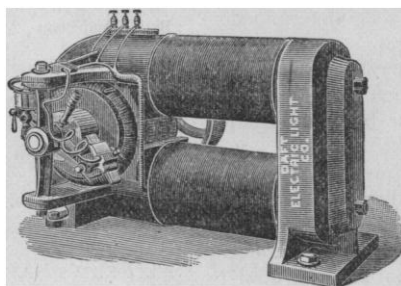
most perfect I have seen. The coils are of one lot of wire throughout, and have therefore a uniform temperature co-efficient, whose low value, .00024, allows one to neglect it in all ordinary work. The box is adjusted to legal ohms at 19° C., and is accompanied by Professor Anthony's statement that they are accurate to  $\frac{1}{50}$  of 1 per cent. . . . You will remember that you procured for me while at the University of Missouri a large five-dial bridge from Elliott Brothers. That was a fine piece of apparatus, but I regard this as far superior. It has all the advantages of the dial arrangements, and has in addition the advantage of the possible connection of any single coil, or of almost any desired combination of single coils, and also of any desired combination in parallel. One can therefore check the adjustments of the several coils against one another, the box thus containing means for its own verification. The box answers also the purpose of a set of comparison coils, and enables one to do a number of things which cannot be done with the usual forms."

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